

least two additional nurses, and we believe that better work would be done were all the nursing agencies coördinated under a supervising nurse and possibly an advisory committee, on which each interested organization should be represented, as the Woman's Club, the State Board of Health, and City Board of Health, etc.

Through such a coöperative plan it would be possible, we feel, to district the city in such a manner that there would be no overlapping on the part of the various nursing services. Each nurse would undertake, within the limits of her district, all kinds of public health nursing, infant welfare work, contagious disease work, and the follow-up work incidental to a modern school inspection service.

In addition, there should be established one or more clinics or health centers, to which expectant mothers and mothers with young babies might come for instruction, supervision, and treatment. At these centers there should be in attendance both nurses and physicians, and expert medical consultation should be available when needed. There should be accommodations for both a waiting-room and an examination room, and a permanent system of records and filing should be provided. We must never lose sight of the fact that by far the greater part of all sickness and deaths occur in the homes; that much of this is preventable, and that the basis of all sound control measures is education.

The greatest single cause of infant mortality in American cities today is the ignorance of mothers; yet we believe that these same mothers are only too willing and anxious to receive the expert training which they need to fit them for bearing and rearing strong, healthy citizens. No class of preventable diseases are so easily influenced as are those which occur among a city's babies. In no branch of preventive medicine will such gratifying results be obtained and none affect so profoundly public health and welfare. A generalized nursing service makes, we believe, for better-rounded nurses and for an intimate knowledge of local conditions on the part of the component individuals. The most valuable part of all work designed to control the spread of communicable disease is that which the public health nurse is able to do in the home. No physician or sanitary inspector or other agent of the health department may so well interpret, to those in need of such instruction, the knowledge essential to the protection of others—knowledge of the sources and modes of transmission of disease. It may be pretty definitely stated that the sickness and death rates of any community will be determined directly by the ignorance or knowledge of its mothers, and whatever system of control fails to take this fact into consideration will inevitably fail in its purpose.

It would appear that the infant mortality of Raleigh, considerably higher, as it is, than that of the birth registration area as a whole, demands aggressive methods of control, and the findings of this service indicate that well planned activities will result in saving a very considerable number of lives each year, and also in lessening, to a very great degree, the amount of sickness and misery which exists among its babies.